

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 30, 2003.

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting the personal interview with Applicants' representative on July 30, 2003. The changes to the Application herein are believed to conform with the agreements reached at the interview.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-23, 43 and 45-114 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 55-114 are hereby added to more fully define the current invention, and as claim 44 is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 12-16, 43, 44 and 46-48 have been rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating, in the April 28, 2003 Office Action, that claims 1-11, 17-23, 45 and 54 are allowed, and that claims 49-53 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating, in the July 30, 2003 personal interview, that the remaining pending claims 12-16, 43, and 46-48 are also patentable over the applied references.

Statement Of Substance Of Interview

In the July 30, 2003, interview, Applicants' representative demonstrated, and the Examiner agreed, that: (1) EP 0 516 066 A2 did not teach or suggest *at least* any "slit formed through the second case," as recited in claim 43; (2) JP 60-198256 did not teach or suggest *at*

least any “heat-welding film,” as recited in claim 47; and (3) US 4,558,326 did not teach or suggest *at least* “when the ink cartridge is installed in a recording apparatus and used for a printing operation, the ink cartridge is sealed from the atmosphere,” as recited in claim 12. Further, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the drawing and claim objections based upon the editorial, non-limiting, changes to the dependent claims herein.

Drawing Objection

The Examiner has objected to the Drawings for failing to show a claimed feature. The feature in question has been cancelled. Thus, it is believed that this objection is moot, and its corresponding withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 5, 17, 43 and 54 for informalities. The informalities noted by the Examiner are corrected herein. Thus, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner’s rejections of: (1) independent claim 12 in view of US 4,558,326; (2) independent claim 43 in view of EP 0 516 066 A2; and (3) independent claim 47 in view of JP 60-198256 are believed to be moot in view of the agreements at the personal interview detailed above.

New Claims

Claims 55-114 are hereby added to provide more varied protection for the invention.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1--23, 43 and 45-114 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-23, 43 and 45-114.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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